

## Investigating adverse event free admissions in Medicare inpatients as a patient safety indicator.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/investigating-adverse-event-free-admissions-medicare-inpatients-patient-safety-indicator>

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Nearly 2 decades into the patient safety movement, [measurement of safety events](#) remains a challenge. In particular, methods to measure safety that are patient-centered and can be compared across organizations are not standardized. This study proposes *adverse event–free admissions* as a potential measure of safety, defining the term as any hospitalization in which the patient does not experience a preventable adverse event. In analyzing nearly 24 million Medicare admissions, investigators found that only 64% were adverse event-free. When evaluating admissions for colorectal surgical procedures, the authors were able to identify a subset of hospitals with markedly higher rates of adverse events using this metric, implying that the measure may be suitable for interhospital comparisons. The recent National Patient Safety Foundation report, [Free From Harm](#), identified safety measurement as a high priority for the field, and this study is a promising step forward. A previous [PSNet perspective](#) discussed challenges associated with safety measurement.